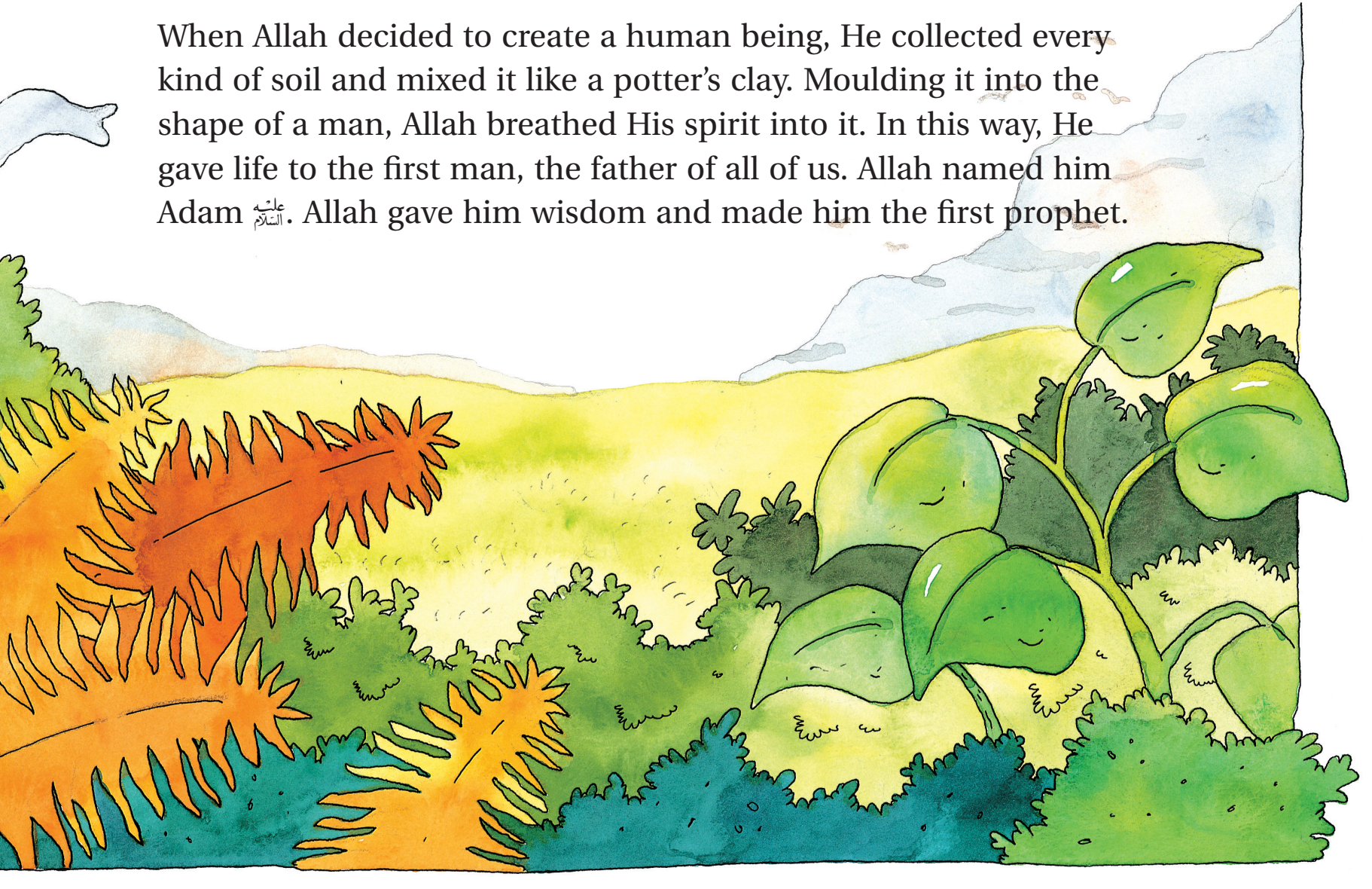
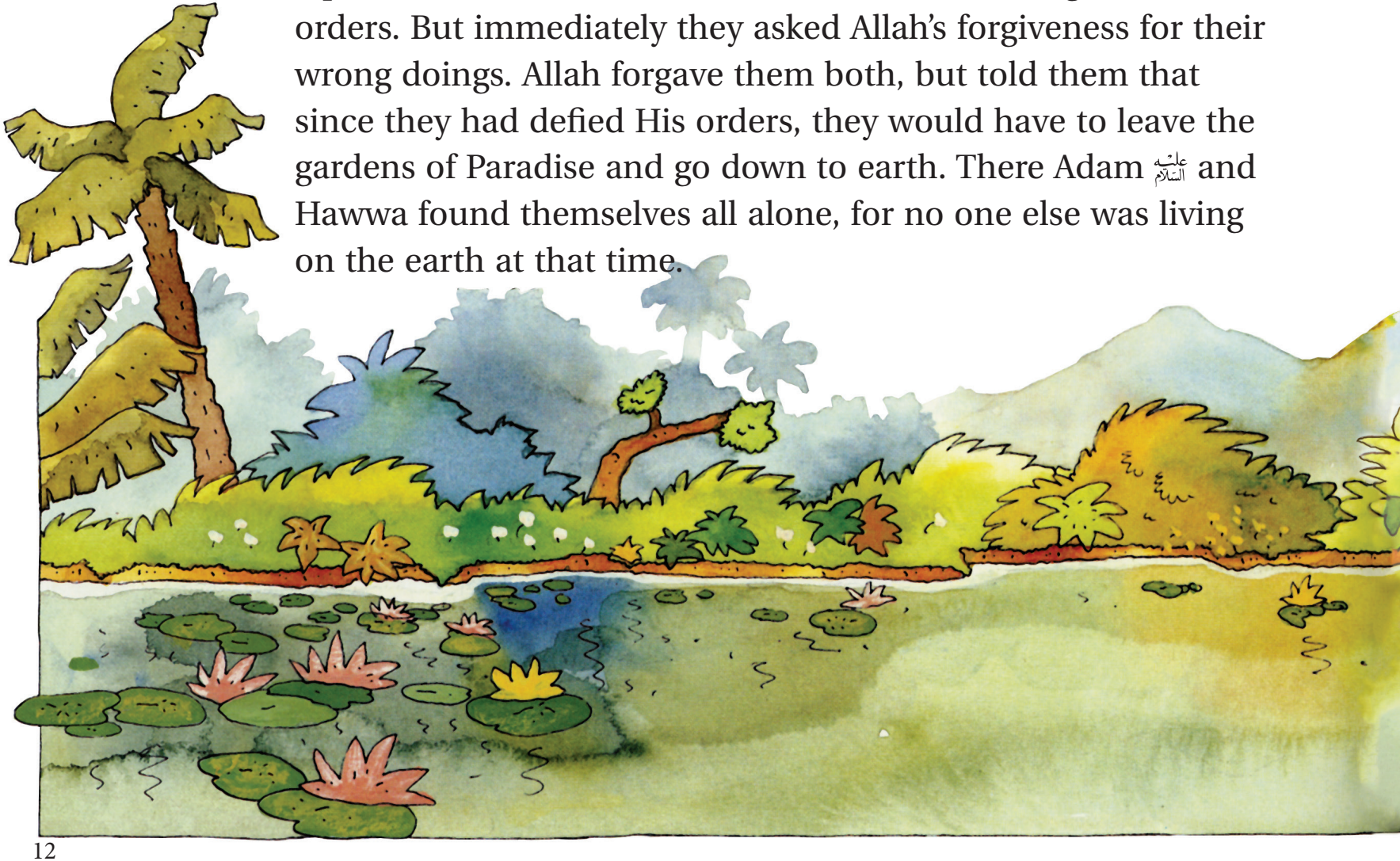


The Father of Humankind

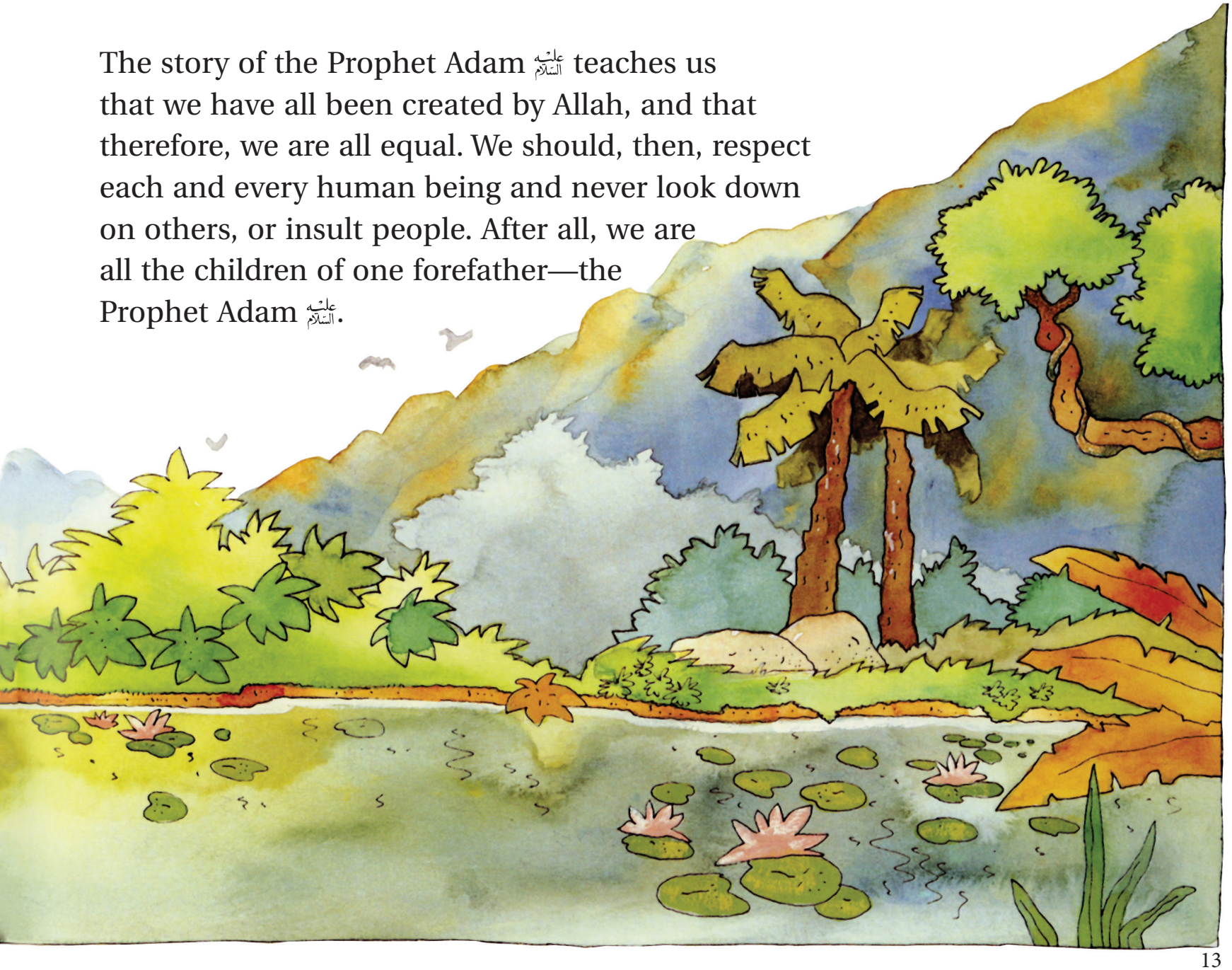
When Allah decided to create a human being, He collected every kind of soil and mixed it like a potter's clay. Moulding it into the shape of a man, Allah breathed His spirit into it. In this way, He gave life to the first man, the father of all of us. Allah named him Adam عليه السلام. Allah gave him wisdom and made him the first prophet.



Allah also created the first woman, Hawwa or Eve as a helper and loving companion of Adam عليه السلام. He told the couple to live in the gardens of Paradise, but warned them not to approach a particular tree. But Satan decieved them to do against Allah's orders. But immediately they asked Allah's forgiveness for their wrong doings. Allah forgave them both, but told them that since they had defied His orders, they would have to leave the gardens of Paradise and go down to earth. There Adam عليه السلام and Hawwa found themselves all alone, for no one else was living on the earth at that time.

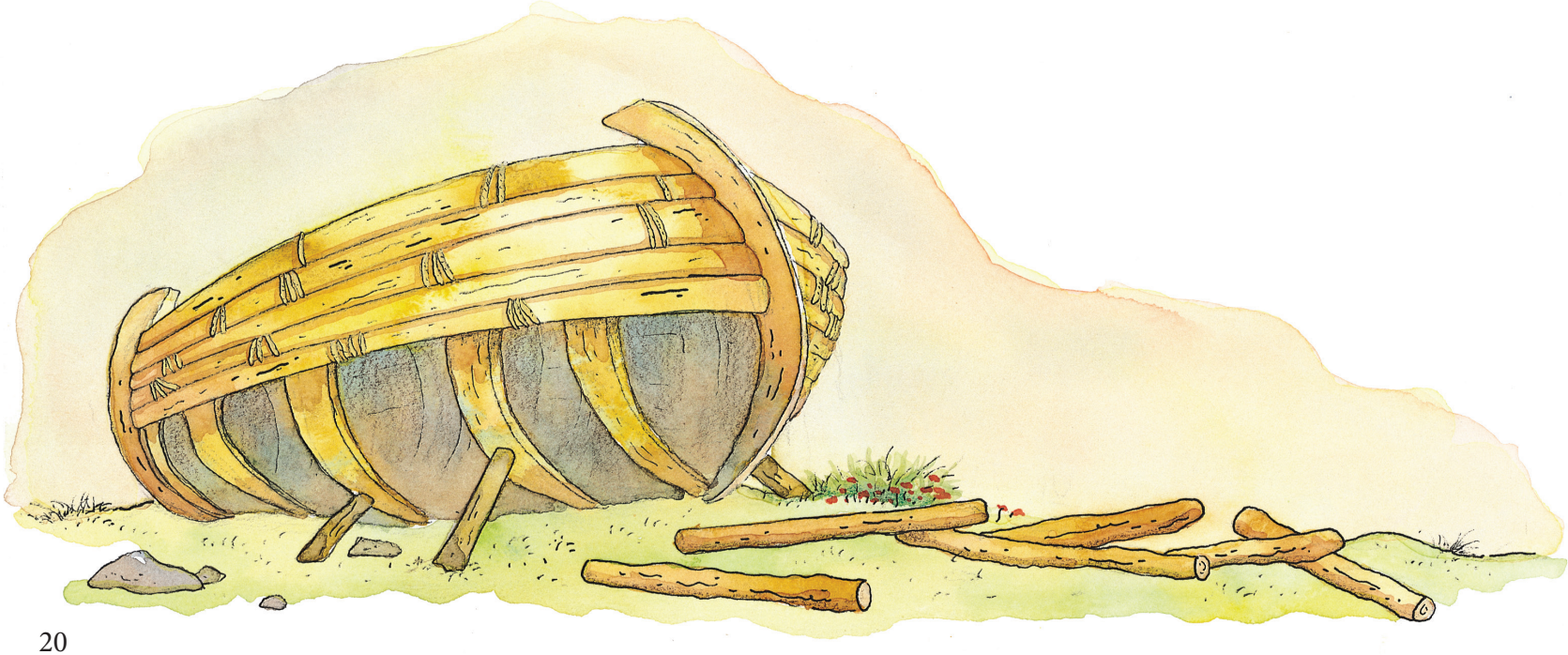


The story of the Prophet Adam عليه السلام teaches us that we have all been created by Allah, and that therefore, we are all equal. We should, then, respect each and every human being and never look down on others, or insult people. After all, we are all the children of one forefather—the Prophet Adam عليه السلام.



The Ark and the Great Flood

Allah then ordered him to “build an Ark under Our watchful eyes.” After a very long period of hard, tiring work, the Ark was finally ready. Then Nuh عليه السلام said: “Embark! In the name of Allah, it shall set sail and cast anchor. My Lord is forgiving and merciful.” Allah then asked Nuh عليه السلام to take aboard with him a pair of every living creature along with his faithful believers. No sooner had they all come on board, than the rain began to fall. More and more rain fell each day. The rivers overflowed and water fell in torrents.

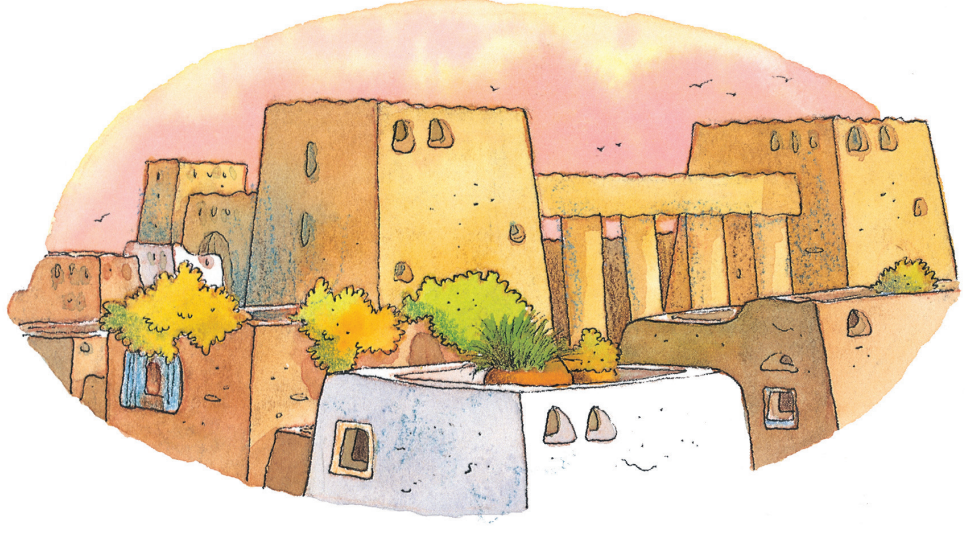


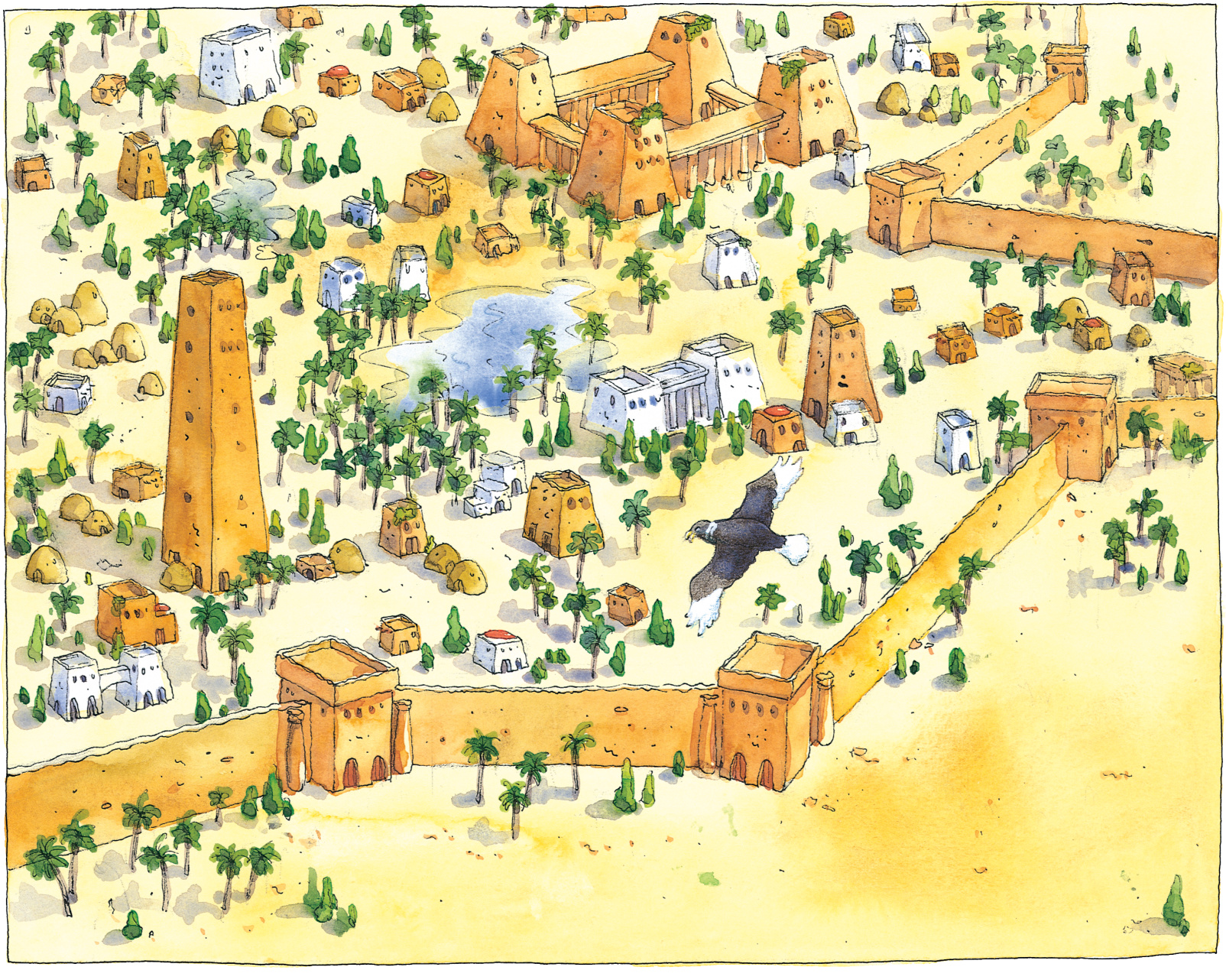


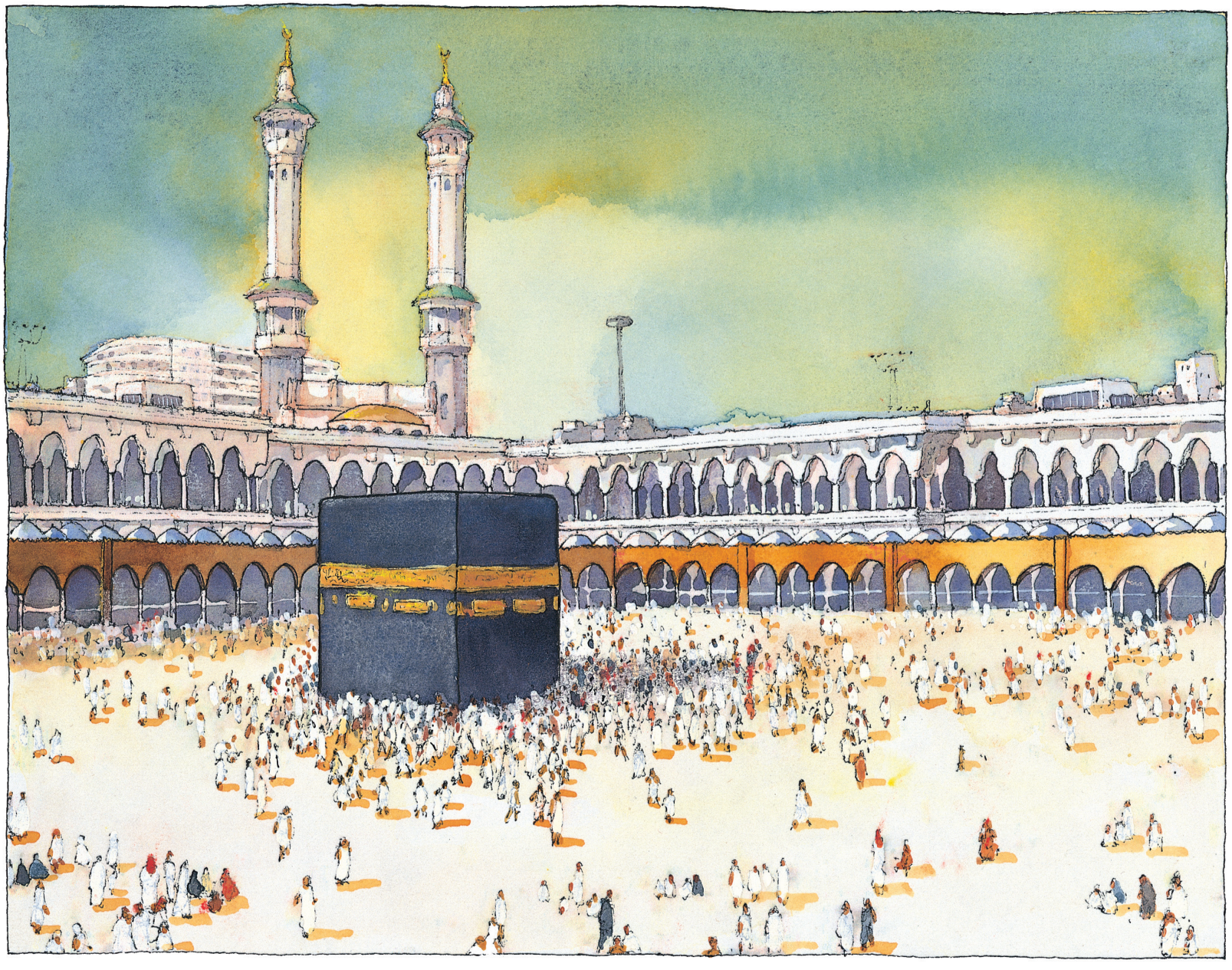
The City of Many Columns

The Ad people were descendants of Iram, one of the grandsons of the Prophet Nuh عليه السلام. Along with other followers of the Prophet Nuh عليه السلام, their forefathers had settled in ancient Yemen. The Ad people were very rich. They were known as “the people of the many-columned city of Iram.” At first, they followed the religion of the Prophet Nuh عليه السلام. But when they began to prosper, they fell into bad ways. Then Allah chose the Prophet Hud عليه السلام, from among themselves to warn them as a sincere and trustworthy adviser.

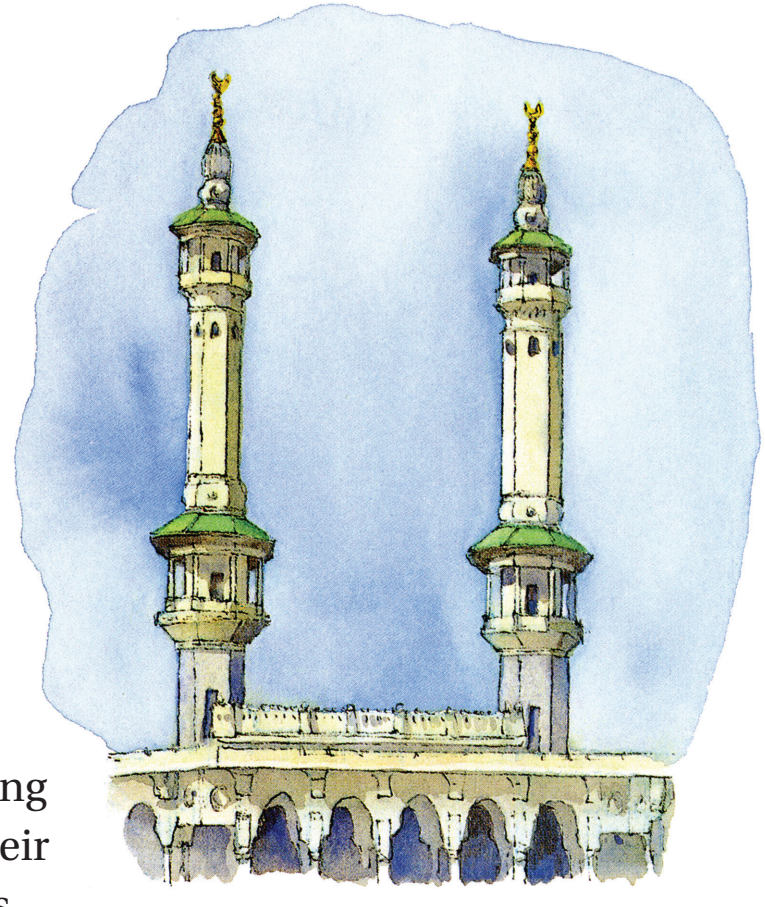
The Prophet Hud عليه السلام told them: “Serve Allah, my people; you have no god but Him. The other notions you have are all false...” But the elders of the tribe rejected him, calling him a foolish man and a liar.







The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام was ordered by Allah to clean the Kabah for those who came there to pray, and to call people to Hajj. Allah spoke thus to the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام: “Call all people to make the Pilgrimage. They shall come to you on foot and on the backs of swift camels; they shall come from every deep ravine.” And so Allah made it a duty for all Muslims, male and female, to go on Hajj once in a lifetime, provided their means and health permitted. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. Today, over 2 million people from around the world gather in Makkah to perform this sacred duty. The moral of the story is that believers will promise Allah to follow the example set by the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and his family, doing Allah’s bidding, whatever it may be, basing their lives on truth and, if necessary, giving up life’s comforts and pleasures. Allah will be their focus, a goal from which they will never be turned aside by the forces of evil.



The Best-loved Son

The Prophet Yaqub, or Jacob عليه السلام, was a pious man. He lived in Canaan, some thirty miles north of Jerusalem. He and his family lived in tents. He had twelve sons. Yusuf عليه السلام was the second youngest of them. One day, Yusuf عليه السلام had an unusual dream, in which eleven stars and the sun and the moon all bowed down to him. When his father heard about this dream, he understood that great things lay in store for his young and best-loved son. For their part, being aware of their father's love for Yusuf عليه السلام, the ten big brothers became so resentful that they began to hate him. They would go off to look after the family's flocks,



grumbling and muttering. They became so jealous of their father's love for this younger brother that they banded together and hatched a plot to kill him.

One day they took him with them pretending that they were going out for a picnic. Coming close to a well, they took him unaware, and seizing him from behind, they dragged him to the well and threw him down into it. He screamed as he fell, but they paid no heed. The well was deep, but it was dried up. Yusuf عليه السلام landed on the dry bottom of the well with a thud. There would be no climbing those slippery sides to escape. But he was a brave boy, and did not cry. His courage never failed him. He turned towards his Lord for help.



The Patient Man's Miracle

The Prophet Ayyub, or Job عليه السلام, a great Prophet who lived in the ninth century B.C. in Hawran near Damascus in Syria, set great examples for mankind. Apart from his great wisdom and compassion, Ayyub عليه السلام was also a very rich man. He had huge herds of cattle, vast fields, a large family and many friends. Yet, he remained an extremely steadfast and sincere servant of Allah, and was forever calling others to worship Him.

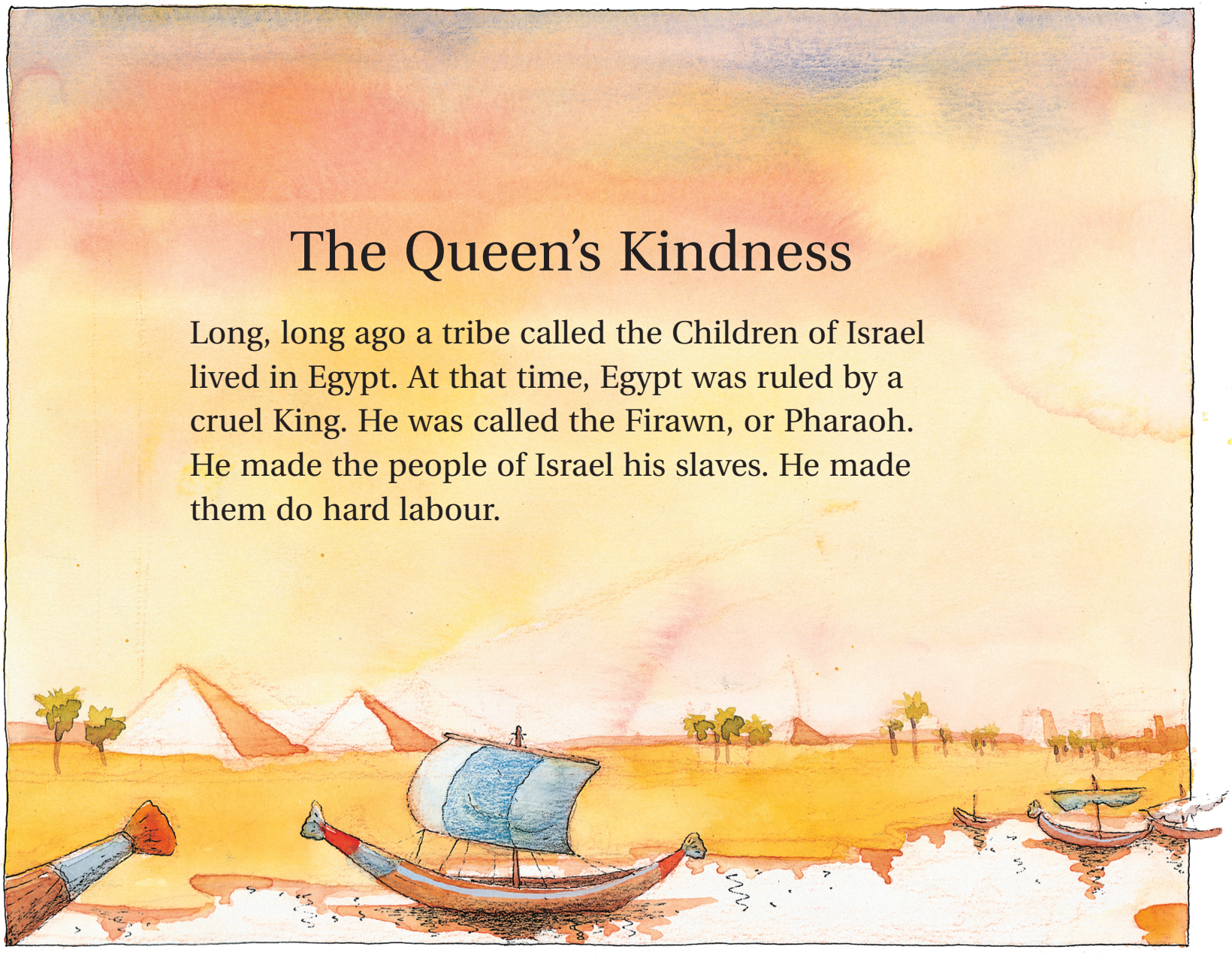


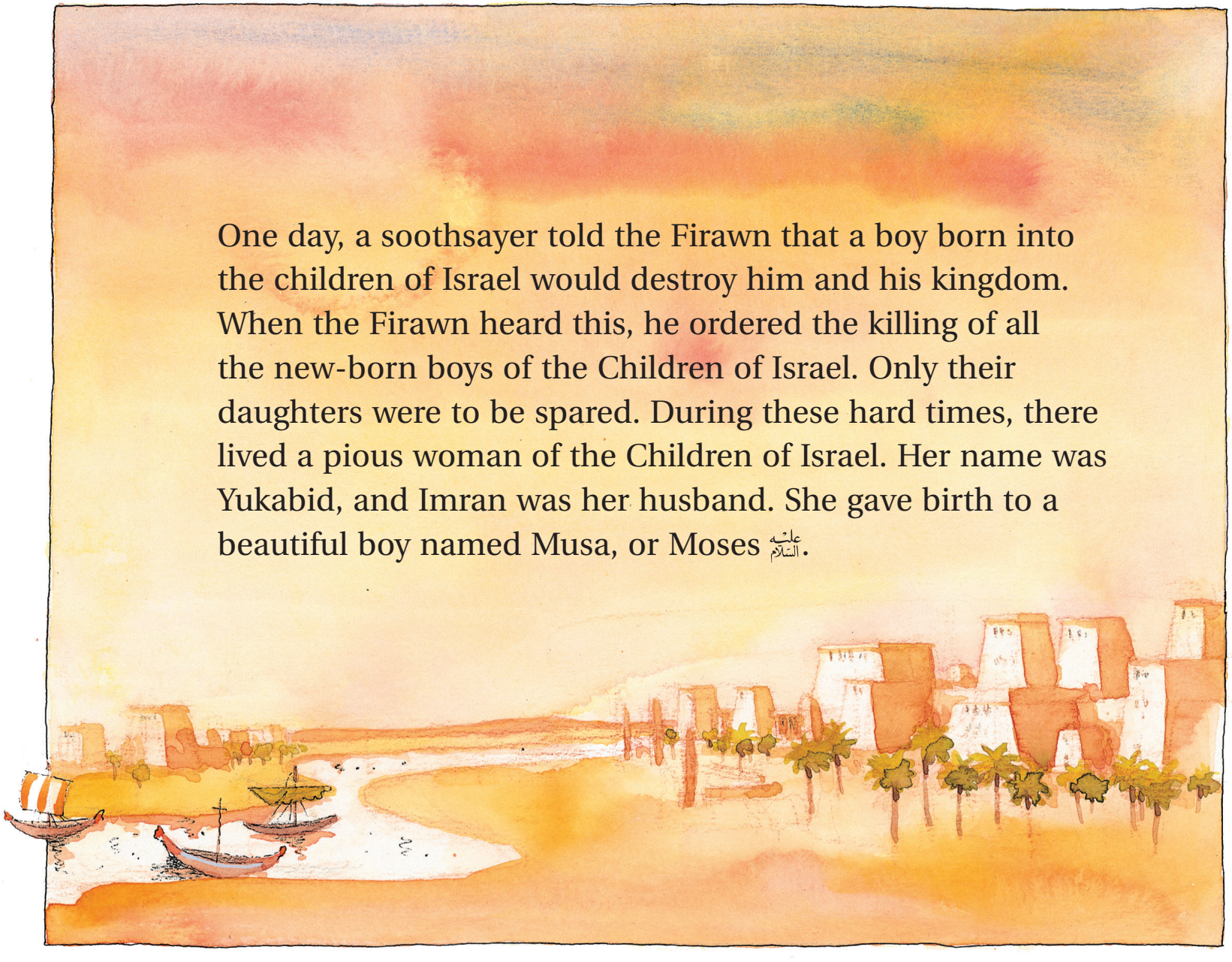
But Satan made people think that it was only because Ayyub عليه السلام was wealthy that he lived a good life, and that if his blessings were taken away, he would no longer be grateful to Allah. To put him to the test, Allah struck him with a series of calamities. His cattle and crops were destroyed, his children died and, worst of all, he became very ill, remaining bedridden for many years. Within a very short period of time, Ayyub عليه السلام became very poor and his friends left him one by one.



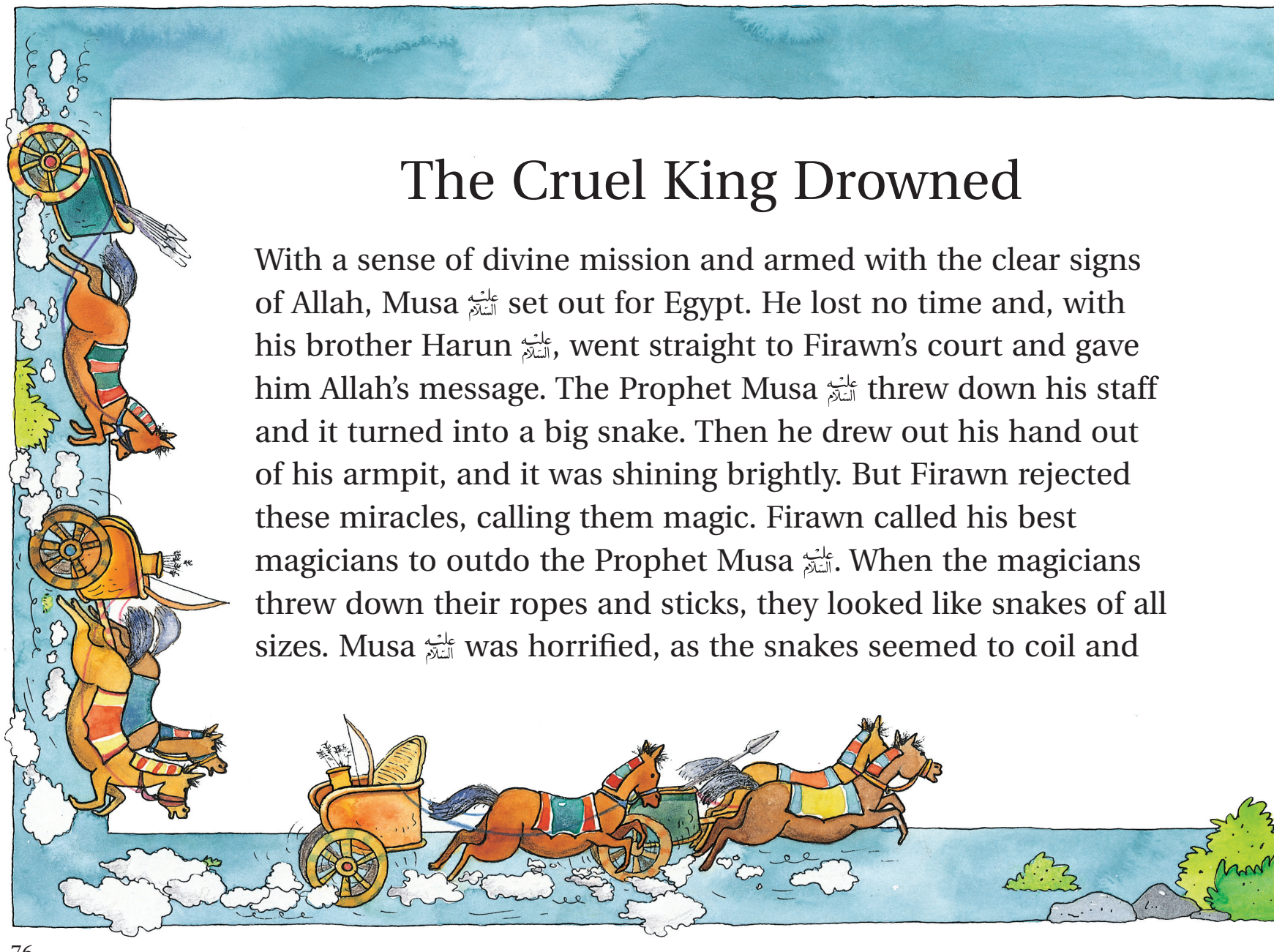
The Queen's Kindness

Long, long ago a tribe called the Children of Israel lived in Egypt. At that time, Egypt was ruled by a cruel King. He was called the Firawn, or Pharaoh. He made the people of Israel his slaves. He made them do hard labour.





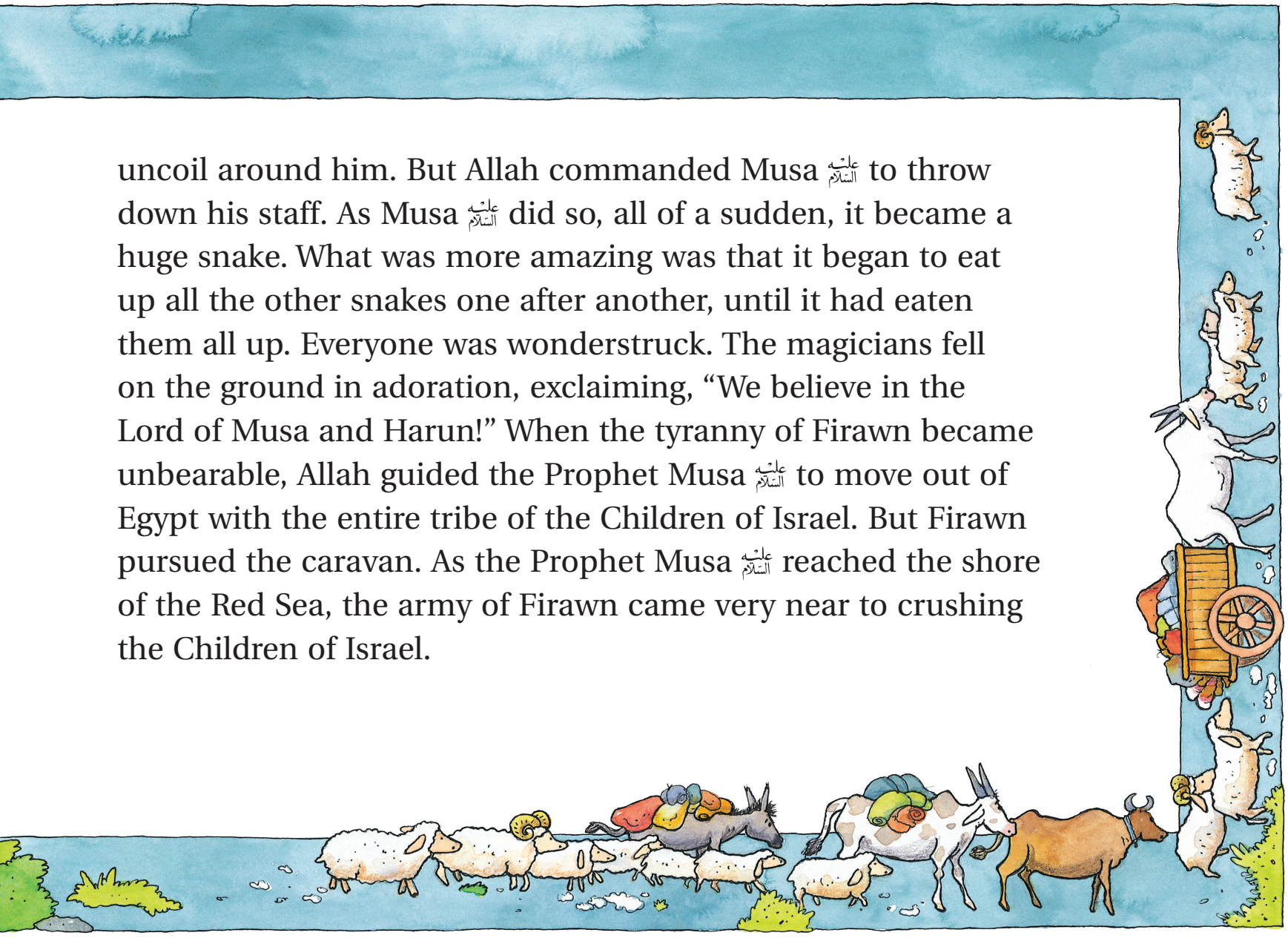
One day, a soothsayer told the Firawn that a boy born into the children of Israel would destroy him and his kingdom. When the Firawn heard this, he ordered the killing of all the new-born boys of the Children of Israel. Only their daughters were to be spared. During these hard times, there lived a pious woman of the Children of Israel. Her name was Yukabid, and Imran was her husband. She gave birth to a beautiful boy named Musa, or Moses عليه السلام.



The Cruel King Drowned

With a sense of divine mission and armed with the clear signs of Allah, Musa عليه السلام set out for Egypt. He lost no time and, with his brother Harun عليه السلام, went straight to Firawn's court and gave him Allah's message. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام threw down his staff and it turned into a big snake. Then he drew out his hand out of his armpit, and it was shining brightly. But Firawn rejected these miracles, calling them magic. Firawn called his best magicians to outdo the Prophet Musa عليه السلام. When the magicians threw down their ropes and sticks, they looked like snakes of all sizes. Musa عليه السلام was horrified, as the snakes seemed to coil and

uncoil around him. But Allah commanded Musa عليه السلام to throw down his staff. As Musa عليه السلام did so, all of a sudden, it became a huge snake. What was more amazing was that it began to eat up all the other snakes one after another, until it had eaten them all up. Everyone was wonderstruck. The magicians fell on the ground in adoration, exclaiming, “We believe in the Lord of Musa and Harun!” When the tyranny of Firawn became unbearable, Allah guided the Prophet Musa عليه السلام to move out of Egypt with the entire tribe of the Children of Israel. But Firawn pursued the caravan. As the Prophet Musa عليه السلام reached the shore of the Red Sea, the army of Firawn came very near to crushing the Children of Israel.

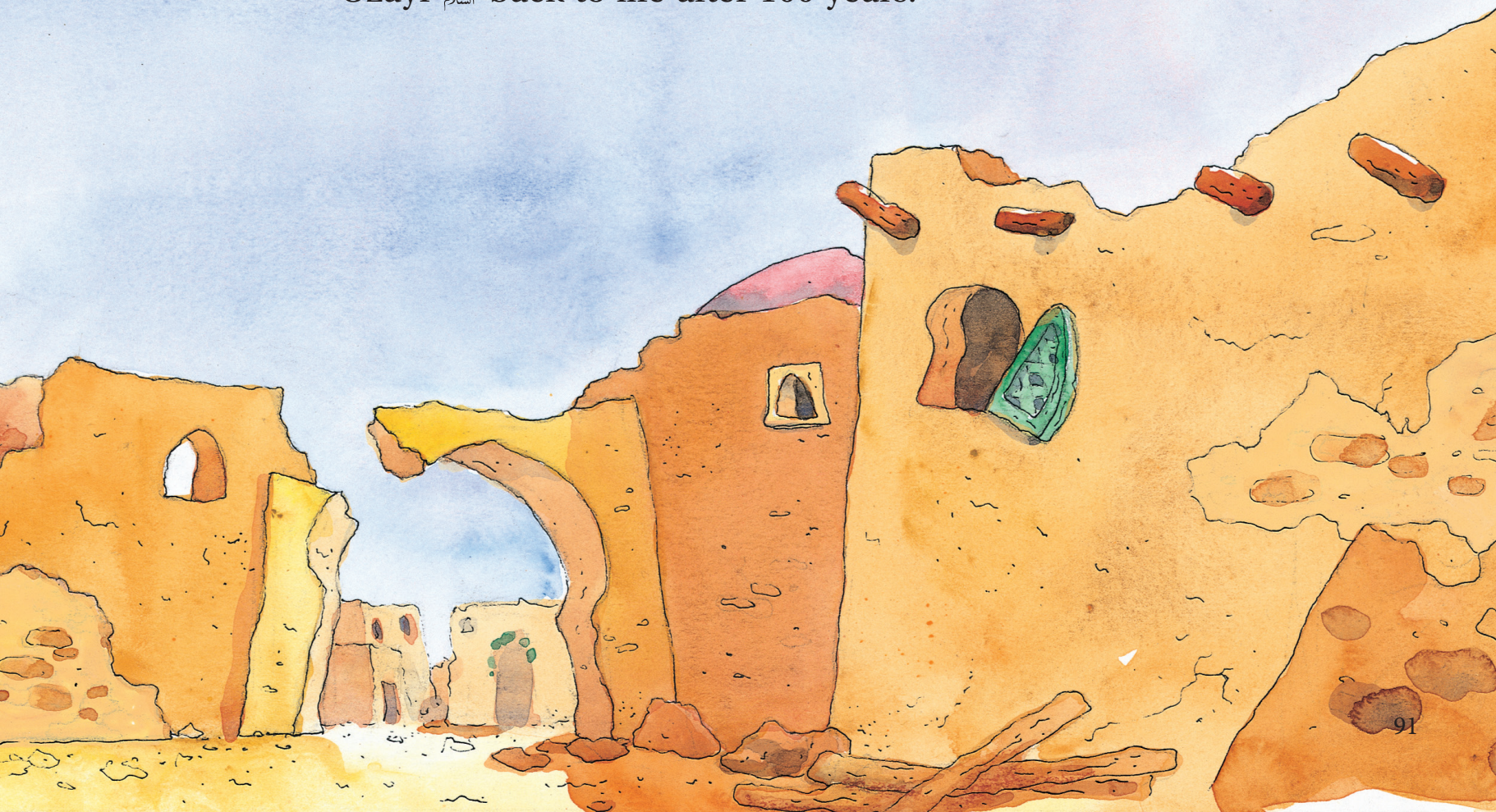


The Prophet Uzayr's Donkey

The Prophet Uzayr, or Ezra عليه السلام, was a pious man. He had a donkey on which he used to travel far and wide. Once he was passing through a lonely city.



The houses were all in ruins and no one lived there. "How can Allah give life to this city, now that it is dead," wondered Uzayr عليه السلام. There and then Allah caused him and his donkey to die. Allah brought Uzayr عليه السلام back to life after 100 years!



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